

Immanuel April Newsletter

The last Sunday in March, still in the middle of the season of Lent, leads us to the story of the Son who went away to a far country, in Luke 15:11-32. There he spent his considerable resources, which he had received from his father, in what is labeled “squandered” and “reckless” by the narrator – Jesus. And later, this son’s brother ridiculed his behavior by saying he “devoured your property with prostitutes.” We know from the first verses of Chapter 15 that scribes and Pharisees were trying to tarnish Jesus’ public reputation by saying that he consorts with tax collectors and sinners (not the sort of people that “good people” associate with.) So Jesus told the story of the Prodigal Son. Why? To reveal the sinfulness of the younger son? Or to reveal the hardness of heart displayed by the older brother who could not (according to Martin Luther, Small Catechism, 8th Commandment) explain his brother’s action in the kindest way. The Father’s love for both his sons is the only evident thing.

We, at Immanuel, are people who: ... **gather, empower, and send all people as disciples of the living Christ. We ... live the way of Jesus and tell of his good news with our neighbors and world.** (According to our Mission Statement)

That’s awesome. Our Lenten discipline (sounds like disciple!) has been to develop a vocabulary to talk about a relationship with Jesus. The first week we pared down words among five groups of 5 or 6 from three words per person to three words per group. The 10 words that came to the top were: Bless, Church, Creed, Faith, Forgiveness, God, Love, Prayer, and Welcome. Four words got more than one nomination to a shorter list: Bless, Church, Faith and Prayer. The challenge is to incorporate those words into everyday conversation and so participate in the Mission of Immanuel. You may choose other words. But it’s best to start with a few with words in which you have confidence and with which you are comfortable.

Last Wednesday, after a week off for snow and electrical blackout, we talked about tools that we have available to tell the story of Jesus and his love. They ranged from simple physical tools like pens and paper, jewelry and clothing, signs in offices and at home, the Bible and other books. We took another cue from Jesus who, in identifying the First and Greatest Commandment said: “Love the Lord your God with all your **heart, soul, mind and strength.**” Tools available to everyone but can be improved with practice.

There have been two challenges: a 15 pinto bean challenge and a What Will You Do Now? envelope challenge. We’ll talk this week about developing a strategy that will take us to Easter and on to Lent next year. All of this is to share the mind of Jesus and his mission to reconcile us with God and with each other. What an opportunity!

On Sundays we are marching with Jesus to Jerusalem to watch the Word of God be glorified in Jesus’ suffering and death and finally receive the Father’s approval and welcome as he is raised from the dead and is given a crown of life! Please join us.

See you at worship this week!

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tues</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thurs</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lent Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	7	8	9 6:15 Soup Supper 7:00 Lent Service	10	11	12 8:00 am Church Council 9:00 am Spring Clean
13 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Palm Sunday Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship	14 6:30 pm	15	16	17 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	19
20 6:39 am Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 am Easter Breakfast 10:15 am Easter Service	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 am Bible Study 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Coffee and Fellowship ILC Backpack	28	29	30			

Happy Birthday to all of our April members! As we celebrate this special month, let's take a moment to enjoy the excitement that each of you brings to our Church family.

EASTER LILIES

There is now a sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies. The cost is \$15.00. Any questions? See Fran.

DO YOU LIKE TO SING?

The choir will be singing on Easter Sunday and could use a few more voices. If you like to sing we would love to have you come join us each Sunday at 9:45 for practice.

PRAYER LIST

Christie Bevington (health – member)
Gracie Lambert (medical issues - member)
The Wade family (Mission family we support)
Francis Millet (health – Countryman)
Angie Blunt (cancer – Drahota)
Cali Molnar (car crash – Pearson)
Brogan Molnar (car crash – Pearson)
Sara Axmann (health – Stratton)
Kim Hudson (cancer – teacher)
Diane Alsbrooks (health – Rudeen)
Gracie Wilcox (blood disorder – Bevington)
Heather Lucht (health – Hanson)
Linda Etherton (stroke – Boden)
Benedikte Ehlers (bone cancer – Fran)
Dawn Buss (neck & back pain– Fran’s daughter)
Roger McGinnis (Health – Countryman)
Steve Martz (stroke – Christie)
Rene & Sharon Remilard (health – Hanson).
Jayson Boden (Jodi’s son)
Tammy Morse (cancer – Fisher)
Kim Pearson (health - L. Pearson)
Corey Chandler (mass on leg cancer – Fran)
Jade & Violet (premies)
Prayers for all affected by the Cal. fires
Prayers for the people in war torn areas
Prayers for all the Christian Martyrs around the world
Prayers for health, safety & Protection for all

MAUNDY THURSDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY

There will be services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday starting at 7:00 pm.
Maundy Thursday we will learn about communion and will be baking unleavened bread.
Good Friday service will be in the sanctuary. All are invited to attend.

All Lenten special offerings will be designated to "Sleep in Heavenly Peace"

APRIL USHERS

April 6 Leroy & Barb Hanson
April 13 Dane & Hailey Drahota
April 18 Fran Freeman
April 20 Jon & Janis Bible
April 27 Doug & Shawn Rudeen

APRIL LECTORS

April 6 Suzy Fredrickson
April 13 Hailey Drahota
April 18 Fran Freeman
April 20 Janis Bible
April 27 Shawn Rudeen

APRIL ACOLYTES

April 6 Sarah
April 13 Ethan
April 20 Colton
April 27 Bella

APRIL FOOD PANTRY

Dental Supplies
Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Dental Floss, Mouthwash